

16 00; Eli Helzer, 1 00; W. M. and M. E. Hamilton, 10 00; Josiah Lichty, 17 50; receipts of lecture at Crystal Lake, 6 00; John Lichty, 5 00; receipts of lecture in Quaker church, 6 00; sale of pictures, 3 00; Mrs. Jennette Libey 1 00; J. L. Gillin, 2 00; Anna C. Harrat, 2 00; J. C. Cassel, 1 00; S. Arnold, 1 00; Elizabeth Benn, 2 00; K. C. of Lanark, 10 00; L. S. Bauman, 3 25; Mrs. Jacob Klock, 50c; Anna Davis, 1 00; J. H. Worst, 5 00; Mary K. Farr, 40c.; H. C. Williams, 2 00; Jos. Zork, 2 70; Y. P. S. C. E. of Hudson, 1 33; Ladies Society at Homer, O., 5 00; Junior Class, Tiosa, Ind., 1 00; Offering at LaPaz, 1 32; S. S. C. E. of Loree, 2 00; S. S. C. E. of Johnstown, 6 59; Maple Grove S. S., 2 00; S. S. C. E., Lathrop, 5 00; Eliza Peterman, 1 00; Anna Wolf, 1 00; Katie Shively, 1 00; H. H. Meyers, 6 00; Daniel Herwicks, 1 50; Warsaw church, per C. F. Yoder, 6 25; Josiah Keim, 3 00; Ellen Gnagey, 15 00; Sister Davis, 50c.; Dr. Little, 2 00; S. S. at Eaton, Ind., 4 00.

WASHINGTON FUND

Mrs. S. M. Snader, Keller, W. Va.,	25
Henry Hoelflick,	50
Clover Creek church, Pa.,	6 25
C. M. Berkley,	5 00
National S. S. C. E.,	20 00
Penna., S. S. C. E.,	5 00
Johnstown church,	5 00
Sarah Krider,	1 00
A Sister, Phila., Pa.,	1 00
Washington City church,	13 60
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	\$ 57 60

FOREIGN FUND

Ellen Souder, Souderton, Pa.,	50
A Sister, Phila., Pa.,	5 00
A devoted sister,	1 00
Quarterly offering of the Brethren S. S. Phila.,	22 30
Young Men's Foreign Missionary Society of the Brethren church of Phila.,	22 00
Y. P. S. C. E. Brethren church, Phila.,	5 00
Foreign Mission, B. C. Phila.,	2 96
J. N. Hanawalt, Dumont, Iowa,	25
Civilla Lichty,	50
John J. Weller, Waterloo, Iowa,	1 00
Mrs. Jonas Flickinger,	1 00
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	\$ 61 51

TOTAL RECEIPTS

Previously reported,	727 02
General fund for December,	126 20
Chicago " " "	289 49
Washington fund for December,	57 60
Foreign " " "	61 51

Grand total receipts,	\$ 1261 91
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EXPENDITURES

Payments previously reported,	633 68
To order 11, for J. D. McFaden,	40 00
To expenses Milledgeville Convention,	11 30
To order No. 12, for W. M. Lyon,	24 03
To " " 13, for J. D. McFaden,	25 00
To " " 14, for printing Brethren Pub. House,	17 68
To money paid direct to W. M. Lyon,	45 60
To money paid I. D. Bowman, at Waterloo,	5 25
To traveling expenses and part salary paid to I. D. Bowman for holding conventions,	67 44
To money paid direct to J. D. McFaden, Nov.	94 41
" " " " " " " "	Dec. 165 48

Total expenses, \$ 1129 87

Grand total receipts,	\$ 1261 91
Grand total expenses,	1129 87

Balance in Treasury,	\$ 132 04
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N. B.—This report includes the Chicago account of both November and December.

Contributors would greatly simplify business, and do just as much good, by sending all moneys to the

secretary. It would enable him to keep his books properly and report promptly.

JACOB C. CASSEL,
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

OHIO HOME MISSION

We have been receiving money lately for our state work rather encouragingly. The money received up to Jan. 1, '98, is as follows :

D. J. Miller, former treas,	\$35.00
Mrs. M. J. Hegler,	5.00
Wm. Beachler, for Miamisburg church,	5.75
J. M. Tombaugh, for Bear Creek church,	5.00
J. M. Tombaugh, for Fairview church,	10.55
W. A. Welty, for Bryan church,	9.06
J. M. Bowman, for Glenford church,	5.72
Minnie Fogle,	.25

Total,	\$75.73
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This report might and really should amount to three times as much. This money comes from five churches; what are the other churches doing? This is not all these churches will do. Brother Welty writes an encouraging letter. Brother Tombaugh says we will hear from them again about the 1st of April. Glenford will take monthly collections. The secretary would like to know how you raise your money; whether if monthly, quarterly, or the entire amount of 25 cents at one collection. Hope all the churches will report very soon.

C. E. DEFFENBAUGH, Sec'y.

Our Bible School

PRAYER MEETING TOPICS

CHARACTER STUDIES—JEPHTHAH

I. Biography.

- a. Son of Gilead. Judg. 11 : 1.
- b. Exiled by his brethren. Judg. 11 : 2-3.
- c. Recalled by his brethren to be their general against the Amonites. Judg. 11 : 4-11.
- d. His reliance on Jehovah in the war. Judg. 11 : 27.
- e. His rash vow. Judg. 11 : 30-31.
- f. His daughter's heroism. Judg. 11 : 34-40.
- g. His death. Judg. 12 : 27.

II. Life Lessons.

- a. We should be careful about making vows. Have we a right to vow something that will hurt some one else?
- b. Should we perform our vows? Deut. 23 : 23.
- c. Should we pay vows that involve another's hurt?
- d. Ignorance caused Jephthah to commit two sins—to vow rashly, and to pay a rash vow.
- e. The one commendable trait of all these early heroes is their firm faith in God. Heb. 11 : 32.

Use a like faith in your affairs.

J. L. GILLEN.

Patience among the virtues is like the pearl among the gems, and by its quiet radiance it heightens every human grace.—*Rev. Robert Allyn, LL. D.*

STUDIES IN THE MINOR PROPHETS—NO. 5

OBADIAH

I. Name.—Of the author we know nothing as the scripture is silent concerning him. The name means "Servant of Jehovah." It is from the Hebrew word "Obed"—servant and "Jahveh." The same name occurs in I Kings 18 : 3 and in II Chron. 34 : 12, but we have no grounds for identifying either with our prophet. See also II Chron. 17 : 7.

II. Date.—The date can not be positively determined. It is now assigned the earliest place among the Minor Prophets, and now the latest. Two main opinions held are worthy of note. One is that the book belongs to the time of the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, between the years 588 and 586. The view which I believe, however, to be more nearly correct is that the prophecy belongs to an earlier date. Those who hold to this view assign it to the time of Jehoram, about 880.

III. Occasion.—The occasion, indeed, is the *crux*. Were we sure of the historical background of the oracle we could also know the date. The burden of the prophet is directed against Edom and the enemies of the Lord's people.

Those who hold to the later date find the occasion in the Chaldean invasion under Nebuchadnezzar, when Jerusalem was destroyed, and the Edomites were wantonly cruel in their conduct toward the Jews.

Others, and with more plausibility, find a more fitting occasion in the event recorded in II Chron. 21 : 8-16.

IV. Unity.—There is no good reason for doubting the unity of the book. Ewald, and those of his school, in order to refer the oracle to the Babylonian conquest have yielded the unity of the book. They consider vs. 1-10 as the original oracle and the remainder of the book as belonging to time soon after the Captivity. This is done because the accusation contained in 11 ff. loses its force if made future.

On the other hand, as it seems to me, that Orelli is right when he says, "The well-rounded form and natural progress of the oracle by no means gives the impression that it is the fruit of such a mosaic process, we hold fast to its unity and give up the identity of the misfortune described in 10 ff. with the Babylonian Captivity."

V. *Style*.—The style of the prophet is vivid, strong and pathetic. He has in mind one great thought and with skill and force he carries it forward.

THE WEEK'S WORK

1. Read the Book.
2. Was the conquest and destruction by Nebuchadnezzar the occasion? Read the oracle of Obadiah and compare Lam. 4 : 21, 22 ; Ezek. 35 ; Isa. 63 : 1 ; Ps. 137 : 7 ; and Esdras 4 : 45-50.
3. Or did it find its occasion in the reign of Jehoram? Compare with the Book II Chron. 21 : 8-10, 16, 17 ; II Kings 8 : 20.
4. What is the relation of Obadiah to Jeremiah? Compare with Jer. 49 : 7-20.

J. ALLEN MILLER.

Hiram, Ohio.